

44 12 (3) QUEENBOROUGH
Sheerness & Sheppey 18

JOINT DISTRICTS

of the

BOROUGH OF QUEENBOROUGH

the

URBAN DISTRICT OF SHEERNESS

and the

RURAL DISTRICT OF SHEPPEY

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year

1949

COLONEL W. H. CRICHTON, C.I.E.

M.B., Ch.B (Edin.), D.P.H. (Lond.), I.M.S. (ret.).

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THE HISTORY OF THE

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Isle of Sheppey

(Medical Officer of Health)

JOINT COMMITTEE

1949

Chairman :

H. C. Love

Members :

Queenborough Town Council :

Alderman Mrs. E. S. Weekes, J.P.

Alderman R. J. Jennings

Sheerness Urban District Council :

W. C. Butterworth

A. G. Coats, J.P.

R. J. Davie

Mrs. E. M. Lifton

H. L. Wise

Sheppey Rural District Council :

T. H. Dale

H. C. Love

Clerk to the Committee :

J. Griffiths, Solicitor

Medical Officer of Health :

Colonel W. H. Crichton, C.I.E., M.B., CH.B., D.P.H., I.M.S. (RET.)

Sanitary Inspectors :

Borough of Queenborough :

W F. Dodds, Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector.

Sheerness Urban District :

D. E. Jacob, A.R.SAN.I., M.S.I.A., Senior Sanitary Inspector

G. Lewis, M.S.I.A., Additional Sanitary Inspector

Sheppey Rural District :

E. F. Brading, M.I.MUN.E., A.R.SAN.I., M.S.I.A.,

Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector

Clerks :

Mr. F. J. Pankhurst

Miss M. H. Leader

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
TRINITY ROAD,
SHEERNESS.

July, 1950.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Isle of Sheppey
Joint (Medical Officer of Health) Committee*

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present herewith my first annual reports on the state of the public health in the three constituent authorities of the Isle of Sheppey.

2.—As you are aware I took over the office of Medical Officer of Health to the three Island District Authorities on 1st July, 1949, on the resignation of Dr. R. Duncan Dewar. A review of my duties as Medical Officer of Health to six County Districts, including the three mainland Authorities, has recently been submitted for your consideration. In this I have stated that the responsibility of administering these Districts is not beyond the capacity of one Medical Officer of Health provided an adequate staff of Sanitary Inspectors is maintained and also provided indulgence is shown to me in the matter of attendance at Council Meetings. Even without Council Meetings my appointment entails attendance at a very large number of other meetings and the preparation of a multiplicity of reports. The appointment therefore is onerous not because of its area or population, but because of the number of individual authorities involved.

3.—The reports on each individual Authority are submitted herewith. I have also prepared a statistical table which is intended to show you at a glance the progress in each District and in the Isle of Sheppey as a whole. It will be seen that on the whole the state of the public health may be regarded as satisfactory, though reference to individual reports will reveal that there is no reason for complacency in view of the serious housing problem and its attendant ills. This to-day is Public Health Problem No. 1. The figures are as follows:—

District	Year	Live Births			Deaths					
		Estimated Population	Total	Illegitimate and Rate per cent	Birth Rate per 1,000 of Population	Total	Death Rate per 1,000 of Population	Infant Deaths under 1 year		
								Total	Illegitimate	
Queenborough	1945	2,685	59	3 or 5.1%	21.9	38	14.2	4	0	67.8
	1946	2,901	74	5 or 6.8%	25.5	31	10.7	2	0	27.0
	1947	2,921	72	1 or 1.4%	24.6	33	11.3	4	0	55.5
	1948	3,018	75	5 or 6.7%	24.8	35	11.6	5	0	66.7
	1949	3,027	57	5 or 8.8%	18.8	24	8.3	2	1	35.1
Sheerness	1945	13,280	270	30 or 11.1%	20.3	171	12.9	7	1	25.9
	1946	14,070	302	20 or 6.6%	21.4	183	13.0	17	0	56.3
	1947	14,320	357	22 or 6.1%	24.9	198	13.8	10	1	28.0
	1948	14,680	311	19 or 6.3%	21.2	190	12.9	5	1	16.1
	1949	14,840*	264	15 or 5.7%	17.8	185	11.5	3	0	11.3
Sheppey Rural	1945	7,599	183	15 or 8.2%	24.1	71	9.3	1	0	5.5
	1946	8,236	184	11 or 6.0%	22.3	96	11.6	7	0	38.0
	1947	8,504	224	15 or 6.7%	26.3	112	13.2	10	0	44.6
	1948	8,883	187	13 or 6.9%	21.1	80	9.0	4	0	21.4
	1949	8,860*	171	16 or 9.3%	19.3	105	11.3	4	0	23.4
Isle of Sheppey	1945	23,564	512	48 or 9.3%	21.7	280	11.8	12	1	23.4
	1946	25,207	560	36 or 6.4%	22.2	310	12.3	26	0	46.4
	1947	25,745	653	38 or 5.8%	25.3	343	13.3	24	1	36.7
	1948	26,581	573	37 or 6.5%	21.5	305	11.4	14	1	24.4
	1949	26,727*	492	36 or 7.3%	18.4	314	11.7	9	1	18.3

* Civilian Populations

4.—As a further indication of the standard of fitness of the population, I am able to quote, by courtesy of the County Medical Officer, figures relating to the findings of the School Medical Inspections. Thus :—

(a) Number of inspections

(i) Periodic

Entrants	...	...	416
Second age group	...	...	367
Third age group	...	...	211

(ii) Other periodic inspections 11

Total 1005

(b) Number found requiring treatment

Entrants	...	...	52
Second age group	...	...	58
Third age group	...	...	14
Other periodic inspections	...	...	4

Total 128 (12.7%)

(c) Classification of general condition of pupils inspected during the year.

TABLE II

Age Groups	Number of Pupils Inspected	A (Good)		B (Fair)		C (Poor)	
		No.	% of Col. 2	No.	% of Col. 2	No.	% of Col. 2
Entrants	416	119	28.6	248	59.6	49	11.8
Second age group	367	94	25.6	235	64.0	38	10.4
Third age group	211	61	28.9	133	63.0	17	8.1
Others	11	4	36.4	7	63.6	—	—
Totals	1005	278	27.7	623	62.0	104	10.3

(d) Dental inspection and treatment

Number of pupils inspected by the Authority's Dental Officers—

(i) Periodic age groups	...	...	1854
(ii) Specials	...	...	5
(iii) Total number inspected	...	...	1859
Number found to require treatment	...	...	716
Number actually treated	...	...	572
Attendances made by pupils for treatment	...	...	1388
Half-days devoted to—Inspection	...	...	11½
Treatment	...	...	164¾

5.—INFECTIOUS DISEASE.—A review covering the last five years of the incidence of Infectious Diseases occurring in the three Island Districts and in the Island as a whole is shown in Table III.

TABLE III
INCIDENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE
1945 - 1949

		Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Measles	Pneumonia	Erysipelas	Acute Poliomyelitis	Acute Polioencephalitis	Dysentery	Malaria	Cerebro-spinal Fever
Queenborough M.B.	1945	-	2	-	113	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
	1946	6	-	-	4	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
	1947	5	10	-	55	-	2	1	-	-	-	-
	1948	11	7	-	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	1949	5	1	-	142	2	1	-	-	-	-	-
Sheerness U.D.	1945	11	3	-	203	15	3	-	-	1	-	-
	1946	11	22	1	42	8	4	1	-	-	-	-
	1947	8	79	10	239	16	6	-	-	2	1	1
	1948	12	48	1	21	6	9	1	1	-	3	-
	1949	44	15	-	518	7	5	1	-	-	-	-
Sheppey R.D.	1945	4	4	-	190	21	1	-	-	-	-	-
	1946	4	6	1	16	25	6	1	-	-	-	-
	1947	7	80	1	192	22	2	1	-	-	-	-
	1948	2	51	1	54	5	4	-	-	1	1	-
	1949	6	35	-	239	18	10	-	-	-	-	-
East of Sheppey	1945	15	9	-	506	37	5	-	-	1	-	-
	1946	21	28	2	62	34	10	2	-	-	-	-
	1947	20	169	11	486	38	10	2	-	2	1	1
	1948	25	106	2	84	11	13	1	1	1	4	-
	1949	55	51	-	899	27	16	1	-	-	-	-

It will be noted that the Island has been particularly fortunate the incidence of Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis even in the epidemic years and that the main diseases are Measles and Whooping Cough.

6.—TUBERCULOSIS.—I am indebted to Dr. S. Roy C. Price, of Medway and Gravesend Hospital Management Committee, for following figures relating to Tuberculosis.

(a) Patients attending Chest Clinic during 1949 —

	Adults		Children		Total
	M	F	M	F	
Def. Tb. (respiratory) ...	18	7	5	1	31
Non. Tb.	30	40	19	20	109
Total ...	48	47	24	21	140

These patients made a total of 410 attendances at the Clinic
 (b) Patients were sent to the following Institutions during the year :—

Lenham Sanatorium	...	...	...	1
Grosvenor Sanatorium	...	...	...	1
Kettlewell Hospital	...	...	...	4
Preston Hall Sanatorium	...	...	...	1
Nayland Sanatorium	...	...	...	1
Sheppey General Hospital	...	...	...	3
Eversfield Chest Hospital	...	...	...	1
Fairlight Sanatorium	...	...	...	2
Willesborough Hospital	...	...	...	1
Brompton Hospital	...	...	...	1
Keycol Hill Sanatorium	...	...	...	2
All Saints' Hospital	...	...	...	1
Grove Park Hospital	...	...	...	1

7.—METEOROLOGY.—Mr. E. W. Cooper, M.B.A.A., of "Astra," Warden Point, has very kindly supplied me with the following records taken by him during 1949.

TABLE IV

Month	TEMPERATURE			
	Max. °F	Min. °F	Highest °F	Lowest °F
January	42·43	38·22	53° on 29	30° on 13
February	43·93	37·30	57° on 17, 18	26° on 3
March	41·12	36·00	59° on 25, 26	27° on 6
April	53·00	43·90	79° on 16	36° on 10
May	54·80	45·38	66° on 23	42° on 14
June	60·19	52·23	83° on 27	44° on 2
July	67·29	57·20	82° on 26, 27	51° on 3
August	65·94	57·00	81° on 15	50° on 10
September	65·22	58·80	82° on 5	52° on 16, 17
October	56·32	50·22	71° on 3	36° on 27, 28
November	45·23	40·20	56° on 10	33° on 15
December	43·77	41·66	55° on 3	30° on 12
Means	53·27	46·51	83° on 27th	26° on 3rd
	49·89		June	February

TABLE V

	Rainfall (inches)	Total Hours	Sunshine		
			Average for S.E. England	Above or Below Average	
January	0·69	87·7	52	+	35.7
February	0·63	142·0	74	+	68.0
March	0·90	114·0	122	—	18.0
April	0·93	222·6	169	+	53.6
May	1·39	208·8	214	—	5.2
June	0·61	274·7	216	+	58.7
July	1·66	257·2	216	+	41.2
August	1·05	244·4	201	+	43.4
September	1·44	180·7	163	+	17.7
October	5·43	142·9	107	+	35.9
November	2·95	84·2	64	+	20.2
December	1·28	65·8	45	+	20.8
YEAR	18·96	2025·0	1643	+	382.0

8.—I have already expressed my gratitude to individual Councils for the encouragement and consideration they have shown me. I wish now to take the opportunity to place on record my recognition of the excellent and valuable assistance rendered to me by Mr. Rankhurst, Chief Clerk in my Sheerness Office, through whose initiative, resource and local knowledge my duties have been made lighter and more pleasant.

I remain,

Your obedient servant,

W. H. CRICHTON,

Medical Officer of Health.

Queenborough Town Council

1949

Mayor :

Alderman Mrs. E. S. WEEKES, J.P.

Deputy-Mayor :

Alderman J. S. BILLS, J.P.

Aldermen :

R. J. Wellard R. J. Jennings

Councillors :

J. Bentley
F. E. Cackett
F. C. Collis
E. G. Dines
Mrs. M. Dobner
W. L. E. Mason
E. Thompson
W. J. Underwood
Miss D. L. Wood
W. C. T. Weekes
A. E. Wellard

Town Clerk : F. Marshall

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT
TRINITY ROAD,
SHEERNESS.

July, 1950

To the Queenborough Town Council.

MR. MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS,

I have the honour to present my first Annual Report on the health of the people of Queenborough during 1949.

On the whole the health of the people has been satisfactory. The Birth Rate has fallen, as it has throughout the country, and so has the Infant Mortality Rate. A careful study of the latter, however, shows a distinct upward trend during the last five years.

There was a marked increase in the number of infectious diseases notified, largely due to the periodic measles epidemic. The incidence of Tuberculosis shows a slight upward trend since 194

The housing situation cannot be regarded as satisfactory any more than it is throughout the country in that the supply is unlikely to meet the serious demand at the present rate. In these circumstances the advisability of an improved system of selection of tenants has been referred to you.

I wish to take this opportunity of expressing my gratitude to Mr. W. F. Dodds for his loyal assistance and co-operation during the year and to you and the Council for your encouragement and consideration.

Your obedient servant,

W. H. CRICHTON,

Medical Officer of Health

SECTION I.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

CLIMATE

There was an exceptionally fine summer and a mild winter at both beginning and end of the year.

AREA IN ACRES

Land	725	} 1,441
Water	...	...	...	...	263
Foreshore	...	...	...	...	453

POPULATION

Estimated mid-year, 1949 ... 3,027

This figure shows an increase of 9 over the estimated population for the preceding year and of 106 over the figure for 1947. The natural increase in population, i.e., the excess of births over deaths, was 33.

NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES

861. This figure shows an increase of 29 over the number of inhabited houses in 1948.

RATEABLE VALUE ... £17,923

SUM REPRESENTING PENNY RATE ... £75

SECTION II.

VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS

(a) Live Births		Males	Females	Totals
Legitimate	...	15 (29)*	37 (41)*	52 (70)*
Illegitimate	...	4 (3)	1 (2)	5 (5)
Totals	...	19 (32)	38 (43)	57 (75)

The percentage of illegitimate births was 8.8% (6.7%).

The total number of births was 18 less than that of the preceding year, representing a difference of 24%.

(b) Birth Rate

Per 1,000 of estimated population ... 18.8 (24.8)

This is the lowest Birth Rate in the Borough since the war. The Rate for England and Wales for 1949 was 16.7 per 1,000 total population.

(c) Still Births		Males	Females	Totals
Legitimate	...	2 (2)	1 (1)	3 (3)
Illegitimate	...	— (0)	— (0)	— (0)
Totals	...	2 (2)	1 (1)	3 (3)

The percentage of still-births to the total (live and still) births was 5.0%. For 1948 it was 3.8%.

* Figures in brackets relate to the year 1948.

2. DEATHS

(a) The total number of deaths from all causes was 24, whom 17 were males and 7 females. The corresponding figure for the preceding year was 35 of whom 15 were males and 20 females.

(b) The corrected Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimate population was 8.3 as compared with 11.6 in 1948 and 11.3 in 1949.

The Death Rate for England and Wales was 11.7.

(c) The following table shows the causes of deaths of residents whether occurring within or without the district during the year :-

TABLE I

Disease	Males	Females
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	1 (—)	— (1)
Cancer of stomach and duodenum	— (1)	1 (1)
Cancer of breast	— (—)	— (1)
Cancer of other sites	— (3)	— (2)
Intracranial vascular lesions	1 (2)	1 (2)
Heart diseases	7 (3)	2 (5)
Bronchitis	— (2)	2 (2)
Other respiratory diseases	2 (1)	— (—)
Pneumonia	1 (—)	— (—)
Diarrhoea under 2 years	— (—)	— (1)
Nephritis	— (—)	— (1)
Premature birth	2 (—)	— (2)
Congenital malformation, birth injuries, infant diseases	— (1)	— (1)
Other violent causes	— (1)	— (—)
All other causes	2 (1)	1 (1)
Totals ...	17 (15)	7 (20)

3. INFANT MORTALITY

(a) The number of deaths of infants under one year of age was less in 1949—2 deaths—than in the preceding year—5 deaths. This represents an Infant Mortality Rate of 35.1 per 1,000 live births as compared with a rate of 66.7 in 1948. Welcome as this figure is, a careful study of the records suggests an upward trend in infant mortality in the Borough since 1943.

(b) The Infant Mortality Rate for England and Wales was 32 per 1,000 live births.

NATURAL INCREASE IN POPULATION

The excess of births over deaths during the year was 33 as compared with differences of 40, 39 and 43 in the years 1948, 1947 and 1946 respectively.

SECTION III.

INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES THEIR PREVALENCE AND CONTROL

1. The very considerable increase in the incidence of infectious disease compared with the preceding year is attributable to the periodic Measles epidemic which was fortunately of mild character. Details of the cases notified are shown in the following table :—

TABLE II.

Disease	Total	Males	Females	Number removed to Hospital.	Total Deaths registered.
Scarlet Fever	5 (11)	4	1	4	—
Whooping Cough	1 (7)	—	1	—	—
Diphtheria	— (—)	—	—	—	—
Measles	142 (9)	71	71	—	—
Acute Pneumonia (primary or influenzal)	2 (—)	1	1	—	1
Erysipelas	1 (—)	—	1	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	— (—)	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	— (—)	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	— (—)	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	— (3)	—	—	—	—
Smallpox	— (—)	—	—	—	—
Typhoid	— (—)	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	— (—)	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis—Pulmonary	3 (6)	2	1	4	1
Non-Pulmonary	1 (1)	1	—	—	—
Totals	155 (37)	79	76	8	2

2. The age distribution of the cases notified are shown Table III below :—

Disease	At all ages	Age Groups							
		Under 1 year	1 - 2	3 - 4	5 - 9	10 - 14	15 - 24	25 - 44	45 - 64
Scarlet Fever	5	-	-	1	3	1	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Diphtheria	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	142	7	31	40	63	1	-	-	-
Acute Pneumonia (primary or influenzal)	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Erysipelas	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Smallpox	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Typhoid	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tuberculosis—Pulmonary	3	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-
Non-Pulmonary	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	155	7	33	41	66	2	1	3	2

3. TUBERCULOSIS

Although happily only four new cases were notified during the year as compared with seven in the preceding year, the trend of incidence since 1941 is definitely upward, whether this be measured in actual cases or in the ratio of deaths from Tuberculosis per 1,000 of the population. Since 1943 the ratio of deaths has been higher than the average for the county. The position at the end of the year is shown in the summary of the Tuberculosis Register in Table IV below :—

TABLE IV
SUMMARY OF TUBERCULOSIS REGISTER

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Total
	M	F	M	F	
On Register, 1st Jan., 1949	10	9	1	—	20
New notifications	2	1	1	—	4
Deaths of cases not previously notified	1	—	—	—	1
Restored to Register	—	—	—	—	—
Transfers from other districts	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	13	10	2	—	25
Died during year	1	—	—	—	1
Recovered	—	—	—	—	—
Removed from district	1	—	—	—	1
Totals	2	—	—	—	2
Number of cases remaining on Register, 31st Dec., 1949	11	10	2	—	23

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

By courtesy of the County Medical Officer the following figures relating to the state of immunisation against Diphtheria of children under 15 years of age are reproduced :—

TABLE V

Year of Birth	Primary Immunisation in 1949	Reinforcing Inoculation in 1949	Total number Immunised at end of 1949	Percentage of related population
1949	4	—	4	64.3
1948	45	—	51	
1947	9	—	56	
1946	1	—	51	
1945	—	2	40	
1944	—	—	52	
1943	1	—	59	90.1
1942	—	—	44	
1941	1	3	39	
1940	1	13	39	
1939	7	14	54	
1938	2	9	43	
1937	—	1	46	80.3
1936	—	—	40	
1935	—	—	47	
Totals	71	42	665	80.3

5. VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX

I am also indebted to the County Medical Officer for the particulars of persons vaccinated against Smallpox during 1949, contained in the following table :—

TABLE VI

Age group	Primary Vaccinations	Re-Vaccinations
Under 1 ...	9	—
1 to 4	5	—
5 to 14	1	—
15 and over ...	4	6
Totals ...	19	6

6. "Q" FEVER

A case of what is known as "Q" Fever was reported in a Queenborough resident at the end of the year. The diagnosis was confirmed bacteriologically and the case made a complete recovery. Careful investigation of the circumstances of the case revealed no evidence of contact with or exposure to livestock. Another case occurred at the same time at West Minster. Further enquiries into the possible origin of the disease are being made.

SECTION IV.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

1. Reference to my taking over the joint appointment as Medical Officer of Health, Sheppey, in addition to the three mainland districts on 1st July, 1949, is made in the address to the Joint M.O.H. Committee at the beginning of this Report.

2. The Health Services administered by the Borough Council, as in the case of all County District Councils, are now limited to the prevention of disease and the maintenance of good health in the environmental sphere, i.e., better housing, the prevention and control of disease, including infectious disease, food and food inspection, water supplies and vital statistics. Personal health services, i.e., maternity and child welfare, school health services, ambulance services, domestic help and health visiting, venereal disease and tuberculosis are the responsibility of the Kent County Council. This office has no official information of the services provided and there is a deplorable lack of liaison between environmental and personal health services.

3. WATER SUPPLY

(a) The Water Supply for the Borough is derived from two deep wells at Rushenden. The supply is plentiful and more than

meets the requirements of the Borough at the present time. Chemically, the water is exceptionally hard (i.e., permanent hardness—18.6; temporary hardness—20.4; total hardness—39.0). Bacteriologically the treated water has not been of very satisfactory standard, but improvements in the protection of the wells and in the dosage of chlorine had resulted by the end of the year in the production of water of excellent bacteriological quality. During the year 28 samples of water, treated and untreated, were taken for bacteriological examination; of these, 11 were satisfactory and 17 unsatisfactory.

(b) The total consumption of water during the year was 42 million gallons, of which $13\frac{1}{2}$ million gallons were used for trade purposes and $28\frac{1}{2}$ million gallons for domestic use. The average daily consumption per head of population (domestic) was 25.8 gallons. The domestic supply is all piped.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

(a) 400 yards extension of surface water drainage and sewerage were carried out during the year on the Rushenden Housing Estate.

(b) All the houses in the Borough (861) are connected to the sewer drainage with the exception of 18 houses in the isolated Pier Cottage community which are adequately served by three cesspools.

(c) Sewage is disposed of untreated into the Swale River.

DISPOSAL OF REFUSE

(a) By "controlled" tipping on the Council's site in close proximity to the Sheerness site at West Minster. This is, frankly, an eyesore and makes the road running beside it, one of the main approaches to Sheerness, extremely unpleasant, especially when high winds blow paper and dust about. A more rigid system of control appears to be required so as to reduce the raw surface of the tip.

(b) Fly nuisance from the tip is prevented by regular treatment at 3-weekly intervals with a D.D.T. spray during the hot season, and tests for rats are carried out at 2-monthly intervals.

SCHOOLS SANITATION

Satisfactory.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

Provision is only made for males in public conveniences.

INSPECTIONS

The detail of inspections carried out by the Sanitary Inspector is shown in Appendix A.

NUISANCES

The detail of nuisances abated during the year is shown in Appendix B. Statutory notices were served and complied with in three instances, the remainder abated by informal notices.

D. DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION

(a) Terminal disinfection after infectious disease was carried out in five cases of Scarlet Fever.

(b) No disinfestation was required for bed bugs or fleas, but it was carried out in two cases against cockroaches.

11. MOSQUITO CONTROL

Specimens of both anopheline (malaria carrying) and culicine types of mosquito have been identified in this District and a large number of chironomus insects abound during the hot weather months. Preventive measures to suppress breeding are carried out by the spraying of Malariol in all ditches, channels and collections of water. The general public have been instructed in the adoption of preventive domestic measures by D.D.T. spraying.

12. RODENT CONTROL

(a) An effective drive against the rat population infesting the Glue and Chemical Works was carried out during the year.

(b) Details of the work carried out are shown in the following table :—

Complaints received	...	...	...	5
Infestations found	...	...	...	5
Infestations found on survey	...	...	...	8
Treated by local authority	...	...	...	13
Treated by tenant or occupier	...	...	...	—
Estimated kill	...	...	...	200

(c) An annual test of the sewers showed that they were completely free from rats.

SECTION V.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

1. Under the present organisation it is more appropriate to include all the subjects which have hitherto been referred to under this section to section IV (Provision of Health Services) as these have become the functions permitted to a County District.

2. Queenborough is very highly industrialised for its size and in fact, the major industries in the Isle of Sheppey are concentrated in the Borough. Complaints of noxious fumes from certain factories are made from time to time, but none from the general public so far. Since my taking over I have only once been personally conscious of unpleasant odours and these were remedied at once on application to the factory concerned. I am confident that all that can be done to minimise the possibility of any annoyance is being done.

3. A considerable tract of rough land near the mud-hole has been used for some time for the dumping of trade refuse. This has been done in a haphazard manner. If tipping is carried out systematically, the mud-hole filled and levelled with a bulldozer, great advantage will accrue to the area which could be "made good" in this way and used for recreational purposes.

SECTION VI.

HOUSING

1. The housing shortage is as acute in the Borough as it is everywhere else. Good progress is being made with the housing programme, but, although 62 new permanent houses have been completed since the war, of which 24 were completed in the year under review, the demand for houses is still far in excess of the supply. Thus, at the beginning of the year there were 134 applicants on the housing list and there were 149 at the end of the year. The allocation of 1950 is only 20 new houses plus 4 brought forward from the previous year. At this rate it is quite obvious that it will never be possible to catch up with the demand for houses or to close down or demolish houses which are unfit for human habitation of which it is estimated there are about 30 in the Borough.

2. A number of complaints have reached me on the system in force for the selection of tenants and undoubtedly where there is a large unsatisfied demand there will always be complaints. On the other hand it is all the more necessary that scrupulous attention be exercised so that selection is based on priority of need. The recommendation made by my predecessor that the present system of pointing be substituted by that recommended by the Housing Committee of the Central Housing Advisory Committee was not accepted by the Council. A further suggestion made since I took over the appointment that all applications for houses should be referred to the Health Department for inspection and assessment of housing needs has unfortunately not found favour with the Council. It is difficult to understand how the relative merits of each case can be fairly assessed without such inspection and report before consideration by the Council for selection.

3. Another complaint received is that applicants who work in the Borough but have of necessity to live elsewhere are not being given due consideration in the selection of tenants for Council houses. Although residents in the Borough must obviously be given some preference, it would not be fair to exclude non-residents altogether until such time as the residents have been re-housed. A more equitable method would appear to be required to avoid such cases falling between two "stools," as for instance the allocation of a proportion of the houses available to this type of case, e.g., 10%.

4. The Council houses which are being built in the Rushenden area are of excellent design, well laid out, healthy habitations. Unfortunately, many who are inadequately housed find it impossible to face the rents which must be charged for them.

5. Action taken by the Health Department in respect of housing during the year is summarised as follows :—

(a) Houses inspected for defects	...	...	...	59
(b) Inspections carried out in respect of (a)	...	...	...	161

(c) Number of houses found defective	...	...	59
(d) Number of houses rendered fit by informal notice	...	...	56
(e) Number of houses rendered fit by statutory notice	...	...	3

No action was taken under Sections 11 and 12 (Demolition and Closing Order) of the Housing Act, 1936, owing to the difficulty in the implied obligation to re-house the occupants in the circumstances obtaining to-day. On the other hand, encouragement has been shown to owners of property, which has been made the subject of demolition orders to effect adequate repairs so as to render them fit for habitation.

SECTION VII.

FOOD AND FOOD INSPECTION

1. FOOD BYE-LAWS

The Council accepted the recommendation to adopt the Bye Laws suggested for the handling, wrapping and delivery of food. These will come into force in the new year.

2. MILK

(a) There are no producers in the district, but there are 1 retailers. Of these 4 sell non-designated raw milk, an unusually high proportion, 5 Sterilised Milk, 1 Pasteurised Milk and another Tuberculin Tested Milk.

(b) Eight samples of milk were taken for examination by the County Laboratory with the following results :—

Designation	No. of samples	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Non-designated milk ...	5	4	1
Pasteurised milk ...	3	2	1

3. ICE CREAM

There are no producers of Ice Cream in the Borough, but two premises are registered for the sale and storage of ice cream, both pre-packed. Arrangements are being made for the taking of samples.

4. MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION

As a result of inspections carried out by the Sanitary Inspector the following items of food were condemned as unfit for human consumption :—

Meat—fresh	...	...	...	56	lbs.
Meat—tinned	...	...	...	13½	lbs.
Fish	...	...	...	37	lbs.
Milk—tinned	...	...	...	74½	pts.
Fruit and Vegetables	...	...	...	108½	lbs.
Jam	...	...	...	54	lbs.

FISH FRYING

There are two fried fish shops in the district and both are kept in a clean and satisfactory condition.

BAKEHOUSES

There are two bakehouses in operation and both are kept satisfactorily.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938

By courtesy of the Chief Inspector, Weights and Measures Department, Kent County Council, the following details of samples taken in the Borough are included :—

Article	No. of samples
Ammoniated tincture of quinine	1
Dessert powder	3
Gelatine	1
Milk	16
Salad cream	1
Spirits of ammonia	1

All the above samples were genuine with the exception of the following :—

Salad cream—Inferior. Oil 21.0% (standard 25%).
Old stock. Manufacturers contacted.

SECTION VIII.

FACTORIES' ACTS, 1937 AND 1948

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health :—

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Written Notices
Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by local authorities (no mechanical power)	—	—	—
Factories not included above in which Section 7 is enforced by local authority (mechanical power)	10	60	—
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the local authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	—	—	—

2. Cases in which defects were found ... Nil
3. Out-work (Sections 110 and 111) ... Nil

APPENDIX A.

DETAILS OF INSPECTIONS CARRIED OUT BY THE SANITARY INSPECTOR

	No. of Visits
Refuse receptacles	60
Bakehouses	8
Verminous houses (excluding bugs)	4
Factories and workplaces	60
Halls and places of entertainment	4
Rats and Mice	36
Refuse tips	12
Schools	12
Shops (1934 Act)	68
Stables and Piggeries	2
Water samples	24
Water supplies	52
Mosquito control	6
Houses inspected under Public Health and Housing Acts	59
Re-visits to above houses	102
Disinfections after infectious disease	4
Meat shops and vehicles	12
Fishmongers and Fried Fish Shops	12
Grocers	4
Dairies	6
Greengrocers and fruiterers	3
Restaurants	6
Food manufacturing premises	4
Total	560

APPENDIX B.

NUISANCES ABATED

	Number
Defective sanitary accommodation	2
Rain water pipes and eaves gutters	2
Dumpness	7
Roofs	2
Walls and ceilings	3
Floors	8
Windows and ventilation	9
Washing coppers	2
Water supplies	3
Refuse receptacles	30
Verminous rooms	2
Total	70

Sheerness Urban District Council

1949

Chairman : C. F. SADDLETON, J.P.

Vice-Chairman : J. G. WARD

Councillors :

W. C. Butterworth

A. G. Coats, J.P.

R. J. Davie

L. Garner, M.M.

Mrs. E. M. Lifton

H. E. Morris, J.P.

A. F. Standen

R. W. Stone

Mrs. E. Tiltman

H. L. Wise

Health Committee :

Chairman : J. G. WARD,

Councillors :

W. C. Butterworth

L. Garner, M.M.

Mrs. E. M. Lifton

Mrs. E. Tiltman

Clerk to the Council :

J. Griffiths, Solicitor

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
TRINITY ROAD,
SHEERNESS.

July, 1950.

*To the Chairman and Councillors of the Sheerness Urban
District Council.*

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you herewith my first annual report on the public health of the Urban District.

Although both the death rate and the infant mortality rate show a further decline, it cannot, unfortunately, be stated that the situation is entirely satisfactory. Such portents as the rising incidence of pulmonary tuberculosis, the appalling slums of Blue Town and Mile Town and the distress caused by the acute housing shortage, give no cause for satisfaction, particularly so when the housing problem, despite the Council's efforts, is far from being solved. Housing progress cannot be judged solely by the sum of new houses built, but by the rate at which the urgent demand for houses is met and the rate at which unfit houses can be demolished and the occupants suitably re-housed. The growing housing list makes obvious that the supply is not keeping pace with the demand, while in the field of slum clearance it has only been possible to deal with an infinitesimal fraction of the whole problem. I realise that it is unreasonable to expect any extensive clearances under the circumstances prevailing to-day; on the other hand, I find it impossible to be complacent while families continue to live in ruinous, leaking, damp and cold structures they have to call their homes with poor prospect of relief and improvement in the near future.

There is reason to believe that the public conscience is beginning to be roused on the question of better food hygiene and it is to be hoped that the lectures delivered to senior school children in the district will ultimately bear some fruit. Improvement in the poor standards which prevail in certain quarters can only be achieved by public interest and public demand. Much good should accrue to this cause by the introduction of the new Food Byelaws which you have adopted on the recommendation of this Office.

I am most sincerely grateful to you, Mr. Chairman and Councillors, for the consideration you have shown me and the encouragement you have given me. I also wish to express my gratitude to my colleagues on the staff of the Council for their invariable help and co-operation and to the staff of Sanitary Inspectors (Messrs. Jacob and Lewis) who have carried out their duties very conscientiously and most satisfactorily.

Your obedient servant,

W. H. CRICHTON,

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION I

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

CLIMATE

There was an exceptionally fine summer and a mild winter, both at the beginning and end of the year.

AREA IN ACRES

969. No change.

POPULATION

Estimated mid-year 1949 :—

Civilian	...	...	...	...	14,840
Total	...	...	...	...	16,400

The civilian population shows an increase of 160 over the estimated population for 1948 and of 520 over the figure for 1947.

NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES

4,183. This figure shows an increase of 75 over the number of inhabited houses in 1948.

RATEABLE VALUE

£109,725

SUM REPRESENTING PENNY RATE

£420/10/-

SECTION II

VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS

(a) Live Births

		Males	Females	Totals
Legitimate	...	128 (157)*	121 (135)*	249 (292)*
Illegitimate	...	8 (14)	7 (5)	15 (19)
Totals	...	136 (171)	128 (140)	264 (311)

The percentage of illegitimate births was 5.7% (6.3%).

The total number of births was 47 (or 15.1%) less than in 1948.

(b) Birth Rate

Per 1,000 of civilian population ... 17.8 (21.2)

* Figures in brackets relate to the year 1948

The Birth Rate for England and Wales for 1948 was 16.7 per 1,000 total population.

(c) **Still-Births**

		Males		Females		Totals	
Legitimate	...	7	(4)	3	(2)	10	(6)
Illegitimate	...	—	(2)	—	(0)	—	(2)
Totals	...	7	(6)	3	(2)	10	(8)

The percentage of still-births to the total (live and still) births was 3.6%. For 1948 it was 2.5%.

2. **DEATHS**

(a) The total number of deaths from all causes was 185, of whom 97 were males and 88 females. The corresponding figure for the preceding year was 190 of whom 103 were males and 87 females.

(b) The corrected Death Rate per 1,000 of the civilian population was 11.5 as compared with 12.9 in 1948 and 13.8 in 1947.

The Death Rate for England and Wales was 11.7.

(c) The following table shows the causes of deaths of residents whether occurring within or without the district during the year :—

TABLE I.

Disease	Males	Females
Tuberculosis of respiratory system ...	4 (5)	4 (3)
Syphilitic diseases ...	2 (1)	1 (—)
Influenza ...	1 (—)	— (—)
Acute poliomyelitis and polioencephalitis ...	— (—)	— (1)
Cancer of buccal cavity and oesophagus (M) and uterus (F) ...	1 (—)	2 (1)
Cancer of stomach and duodenum ...	1 (5)	1 (1)
Cancer of breast ...	— (—)	5 (3)
Cancer of all other sites ...	10 (15)	8 (6)
Diabetes ...	1 (—)	— (1)
Intra-cranial vascular lesions ...	5 (14)	9 (22)
Heart diseases ...	39 (29)	38 (27)
Other diseases of circulatory system ...	2 (4)	— (4)
Bronchitis ...	5 (7)	6 (3)
Pneumonia ...	5 (3)	1 (—)
Other respiratory diseases ...	3 (1)	— (—)
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum ...	5 (2)	— (—)
Other digestive diseases ...	2 (—)	2 (3)
Nephritis ...	3 (3)	2 (3)
Premature birth ...	— (1)	1 (—)
Congenital malformations, birth injuries, infant diseases ...	2 (1)	1 (2)
Suicide ...	1 (—)	1 (1)
Other violent causes ...	2 (2)	1 (—)
All other causes ...	3 (10)	5 (6)
TOTALS ...	97 (103)	88 (87)

The only remarkable feature in Table I is that only 14 deaths from intra-cranial vascular lesions were reported as against 56 in the preceding year.

INFANT MORTALITY

(a) The number of deaths of infants under one year of age was two less than in 1948. The Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births was 11.3 as compared with 16.1 the previous year, a very satisfactory improvement. The trend of infant mortality during the last 30 years has been steadily downward, although it has been higher than the County rate by a small margin.

TABLE II

Cause	Males	Females
Atelectasis Pulmonis		
Prematurity ... (15 hours) ...	1	—
Maternal Pneumonia		
Intra-cranial hæmorrhage		
Prematurity ... (4 days) ...	1	—
Unavoidable hæmorrhage (Placenta prævia) of mother		
Prematurity ... (17 hours) ...	—	1

(c) The Infant Mortality Rate for England and Wales was 32 per 1,000 live births as compared with 34 in 1948.

NATURAL INCREASE IN POPULATION

The excess of births over deaths during the year was 79 as compared with differences of 121, 159 and 119 in the years 1948, 1947 and 1946, respectively.

SECTION III

INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES THEIR PREVALENCE AND CONTROL

TABLE III

Disease	Total	Males	Females	Number removed to Hospital.	Total Deaths registered.
Scarlet Fever	44 (12)	18	26	22	-
Whooping Cough	15 (48)	6	9	-	-
Diphtheria	— (1)	—	—	-	-
Measles	518 (21)	253	265	-	-
Acute Pneumonia (primary or influenzal)	7 (6)	5	2	1	6
Erysipelas	5 (9)	2	3	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	1 (1)	—	1	1	-
Acute Polioencephalitis	— (1)	—	—	-	-
Dysentery	— (—)	—	—	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	— (1)	—	—	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	3 (4)	—	3	-	-
Smallpox	— (—)	—	—	-	-
Typhoid	— (—)	—	—	-	-
Malaria	— (3)	—	—	-	-
Food Poisoning	— (—)	—	—	-	-
Tuberculosis—Pulmonary	14 (8)	10	4	10	8
Non-Pulmonary	1 (3)	1	—	-	-
Totals	608 (118)	295	313	34	14

1. COMMENT

(a) The very considerable increase in the incidence of infectious disease during the year was almost entirely attributable to the periodic Measles epidemic, but there was also an appreciable rise in the incidence of Scarlet Fever and of Pulmonary Tuberculosis. Whooping Cough, on the other hand, showed a well-marked diminution.

(b) The solitary case of Poliomyelitis was a severe paralytic case, both legs being badly affected. No evidence of the source of infection could be ascertained.

(c) The age distribution of the cases notified is shown in Table IV. It will be noted that the majority of cases of Measles occurred among pre-school and school children in the 5-9 group and that the cases of Whooping Cough were confined to these age groups.

TABLE IV.

Disease	At all ages	At Ages and Years								
		Under 1 year	1 to 2 years	3 to 4 years	5 to 9 years	10 to 14 years	15 to 24 years	25 to 44 years	45 to 64 years	65 and over
Scarlet Fever	44	-	4	7	30	3	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	15	4	4	3	4	-	-	-	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	518	9	126	145	225	5	3	4	1	-
Infantile Pneumonia (primary or influenzal)	7	-	-	-	2	2	1	2	-	-
Scarlatina	5	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	3	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enteritis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Febrile Pyrexia	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-
Smallpox	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cholera	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tuberculosis—Pulmonary	14	-	1	-	1	-	3	7	2	-
Non-Pulmonary ..	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Totals ...	608	13	135	156	263	10	8	17	6	-

(d) Pulmonary Tuberculosis mostly affected the 25-45 age group, and two unusually young subjects, one of 1 year of age. There has been a definite upward trend in the incidence of tuberculosis since the end of the war. The association of bad housing with pulmonary tuberculosis has been long established and there can be no doubt that the deplorable housing conditions in the district will have contributed to the rise. A summary of the Tuberculosis Register is shown at Table V.

TABLE V
SUMMARY OF TUBERCULOSIS REGISTER

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Total
	M	F	M	F	
On Register, 1st January, 1949 ..	44	37	8	14	103
New notifications	10	4	1	0	15
Deaths of cases not previously notified	1	0	0	0	1
Restored to Register	1	0	0	0	1
Transfers from other districts	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	56	41	9	14	120
Died	*4	5	0	0	9
Recovered	0	1	0	0	1
Removed from district	1	1	0	0	2
Totals	5	7	0	0	12
Number of cases remaining in Register on 31st December, 1949 ...	51	34	9	14	108

* 1 Died in 1948

2. DITHTERIA IMMUNISATION

By courtesy of the County Medical Officer the figures of the state of Diphtheria Immunisation are shown in Table VI.

TABLE VI.

Year of Birth	Primary Immunisation in 1949	Reinforcing inoculation in 1949	Total number immunised at end of 1949	Percentage of related population
1949	14	—	14	57.5
1948	216	—	243	
1947	13	—	162	
1946	3	—	207	
1945	5	4	175	
1944	4	17	213	83.9
1943	1	3	164	
1942	—	2	197	
1941	—	2	197	
1940	—	7	148	
1939	—	2	147	
1938	—	—	183	
1937	—	3	172	
1936	—	2	170	
1935	1	2	124	
Totals ...	257	44	2,516	73.2

VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX

I am also indebted to the County Medical Officer for the particulars of persons vaccinated against Smallpox contained in the following table :

TABLE VII.

Age Group	Primary Vaccinations	Re-Vaccinations
Under 1 year ...	88	—
1 to 4 years ...	52	2
5 to 14 years ...	7	9
15 and over ...	31	61
Totals ...	178	72

SECTION IV.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES AND SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER SUPPLY

(a) The water supply is derived from two main sources — Trinity Road bore and Sheerness East bore, and by augmentation from the Sheppey Water Company by bulk supply. Even with this augmentation, the supply does not meet with the demand and it is impossible therefore to maintain a 24-hour supply with the attendant risks and inconvenience of an intermittent supply.

(b) Probably due to this intermittent supply, the bacteriological quality of the water as revealed by samples taken during the year has been very indifferent. In the main the water at the source has been of good quality, but treated water in the periphery has had higher counts than is usually accepted in a good piped supply. It is doubtful if any consistently satisfactory standards can be attained until a 24-hour supply can be ensured. Meanwhile, improvements in the dosage of chlorination have resulted in better samples from these sources, but this must be regarded only as a palliative measure and the condition remains insecure and unsatisfactory. Of the 25 samples of raw water and 51 of treated water taken during the year, 8 and 16 respectively were considered unsatisfactory. Repairs to the high level storage tank in Trinity Road should remove at least one possible source of contamination.

(c) Chemically the water from both sources is satisfactory. The hardness of the Sheerness East supply was 13.6 (permanent 3.0, temporary 10.6) whilst that of Trinity Road was 9.2 (permanent 4.8, temporary 8.8).

(d) Approximately 95% of the inhabited houses have a pipe water supply in the house and the remainder are supplied by stand pipes.

2. DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

(a) No additions or improvements have been made.

(b) All houses are connected to main drainage with the exception of one. Action is being taken in this case to secure connection to the sewer.

(c) One house and school pavilion were connected to the main drainage resulting in the abolition of two cesspools.

(d) With the exception of a tennis club, using chemical closets, no other premises are without main drainage.

3. DISPOSAL OF REFUSE

(a) Disposal of refuse is by tipping at West Minster. In spite of efforts to introduce controlled tipping, lack of covering material has prevented the successful operation of the tip which is almost permanently on fire. The available tipping ground is now limited and the western end of the canal at West Minster where covering material is available will shortly have to be used.

(d) Gammexane has been successfully used against flies and systematic baiting and poisoning of rats undertaken. The permanent fires on the tip, although giving rise to smoke nuisance with southerly winds, has also minimised infestations.

4. SCHOOLS SANITATION

No complaints have been received from any of the schools in the district.

5. PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

Additional conveniences for both sexes were opened in March in Wood Street, former A.R.P. premises being converted for this purpose.

6. PUBLIC BATHS

(a) Slipper Baths were opened in Wood Street during the year and have met an outstanding need. During the seven months they were open during the year an average of 110 persons per week used them and it is hoped that even fuller use will be made as the amenities become better known.

(b) The Aquarena on the sea front continues to be very popular and it is estimated that approximately 62,000 bathers used the baths during the summer season, an average of 120 adults and children per day. The record attendance on one day was 1,400, during spells of fine weather 850 daily bathers is an average.

(c) The swimming bath sea water is tested regularly. When the chlorinating plant was out of action towards the end of the summer, results of bacteriological examination were very unsatisfactory. New chlorinating plant has since been installed.

INSPECTIONS

The details of inspections carried out by the Sanitary Inspector are shown in Appendix A.

NUISANCES

(a) The details of nuisances abated during the year are shown in Appendix B. Seven statutory notices were served, the remainder being abated by informal action.

(b) Special investigations have been carried out into the smoke and grit nuisance arising from the Gas Works at West Minster. There is prima facie evidence that a nuisance exists, but chemical and quantitative analyses are still awaited. The fact remains that there is little likelihood of any substantial improvement being attained at this plant, owing to its antiquated design, without a very considerable expenditure of money and this, in view of the possibility of the closure of the plant in the near future, is not a practicable proposition.

DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION

(a) Thirty-three rooms and 30 lots of bedding were disinfected after cases of infectious disease. All library books at premises where infectious disease occurs are disinfected before being returned to circulation.

(b) The following are details of premises disinfested :—

	Premises Rooms				
(i) Bed Bugs—					
Council houses	2	4
Other premises	31	71
(ii) Fleas —					
Council houses	—	—
Other premises	3	7
(iii) Other insect pests —					
Council houses	—	—
Other premises	7	9

(c) A disused shop used for storage was found to be infested with beetles which were identified as the "bacon or larder beetle" (*Dermostes lardarius*).

(d) The method employed against bugs is by spraying with Zaldecide containing D.D.T. and repeating where necessary after 4 days, bedding being dusted with Zaldecide powder. For cockroaches and fleas, Zaldecide powder is swept into cracks and crevices and floors, skirtings, etc.

10. MOSQUITO CONTROL

(a) Complaints were received during the year of mosquito infestations in the houses backing on the canal area. Investigations which followed revealed extensive breeding of the *Aedes detritus* mosquito in a channel running along the back of the gardens of these premises. These were suitably treated with Malariol and

D.D.T. and recommendations were made for the piping of this channel. Breeding was also found in domestic water butts and cisterns.

(b) Owing to the many possible breeding places in the broken ground in close proximity to the town, chief reliance is being placed on the education of the public in individual domestic spraying with commercial D.D.T. sprays. In addition routine spraying of many of the probable breeding places and of hibernating refuges of the mosquitoes, i.e., piggeries and stables, is carried out. A 5% D.D.T. emulsion in water is also being used to spray hedges, etc., in which mosquitoes may hide during the mating season.

(c) No specimens of Anopheline (malaria carrying) mosquitoes were identified during the year, although these are known to breed extensively in neighbouring districts in which the same conditions prevail.

(d) Liaison with Military and Naval Authorities in the district is maintained in anti-mosquito measures.

11. RODENT CONTROL

Details of complaints and treatment carried out during the year are shown below :—

Number of complaints received	...	...	...	45
Infestations found	...	...	...	35
Infestations found on survey	...	...	...	5
Treated by local authority's operator	...	...	...	40
Treated by occupier	...	...	...	Nil

A maintenance treatment of the sewers was carried out in June when 70 manholes were baited, 10 showing takes of bait. A further treatment was done in January, 1950.

SECTION V

HOUSING

1. HOUSING PROGRESS

(a) 60 permanent houses were built by the Council during the year and a further 70 were under construction. 3 were also built by private enterprise and 2 were under construction.

(b) The following table shows the number of houses built since the war :—

	During 1949	Total since end of war
(i) Council houses		
Temporary, completed	—	46
Temporary, under construction	—	
Permanent, completed	60	198
Permanent, under construction	70	
(ii) Private enterprise —		
Permanent, completed	3	3
Permanent, under construction	2	

(c) The number of applicants on the housing waiting list was 12 at the beginning of the year and 704 at the end of the year.

SLUM CLEARANCE

(a) The following four Clearance Orders were made by the Council in 1949 and were subsequently confirmed by the Ministry of Health :—

- (i) Sheerness (Russell Street) Clearance Order, 1949.
71, 73, 73a, 75 and 77, Russell Street.
Confirmed by Ministry of Health, 21st January, 1950.
- (ii) Sheerness (Hope Street No. 1) Clearance Order, 1949.
49 and 51 Hope Street, 51 and 51a, Bell Alley.
Confirmed by Ministry of Health, 10th March, 1950.
- (iii) Sheerness (Hope Street No. 2) Clearance Order, 1949.
59 and 61, Hope Street.
Confirmed by Ministry of Health, 10th March, 1950.
- (iv) Sheerness (Hope Street No. 3) Clearance Order, 1949.
4 and 5, Brewery Row.
Confirmed by Ministry of Health, 10th March, 1950.

(b) This is a good beginning but the standard of much of the property in Blue Town and Mile Town is extremely bad and further representations would be made if it were possible to ensure the rehusing of the tenants, many of whom are living in deplorable circumstances. Until the housing programme can be considerably stepped up the progress of slum clearance must necessarily be very slow, so slow in fact that the situation must be regarded as very serious. This also affects the very considerable number of people who are sharing houses and living under very great mental strain.

INDIVIDUAL UNFIT HOUSES

Apart from houses which are incapable of being rendered fit at reasonable cost " and would be made the subject of Demolition Orders, there is a large number requiring repairs which, at present prices and with the limitations imposed by the Rent Restrictions Acts, it is difficult to have improved, to the detriment of the health and happiness of the occupants. In these cases only minimum repairs can fairly be insisted on in these circumstances. Some houses may be capable of improvement within the terms of the Housing Act, 1949, but the provisions of this Act deal specifically with improvements and not with repairs which the combination of circumstances above plus the neglect enforced by the war years have now rendered acute and formidable.

HOUSING APPLICATIONS

(a) The points system in force ensures the allocation of houses according to the greatest need. There is, however, need for a proportional allocation (say 10%) of new houses to be made for the rehusing of tenants of houses unfit for human habitation, so that at least a gradual programme of slum clearance may be maintained. It would obviously be unjust to wait until all those sharing a house

have been accommodated before those living in unfit houses and tenants can be considered.

(b) It will be noted that the number of applicants by the end of the year was greater by no less than 212 than the number on the list at the beginning of the year. This fact clearly indicates that the supply is not meeting the growing demand and any curtailment of the present inadequate housing programme must therefore be regarded as extremely serious.

5.—Action taken by the Health Department in respect of housing during the year is summarised below :—

(a) Houses inspected for defects	525
(b) Inspections carried out in respect of (a) ...	642
(c) Houses inspected and recorded under Housing Consolidated Regs. 1925 and 1932	13
(d) Inspections made in respect of (c)	54
(e) Houses found to be unfit for human habitation (preliminary housing survey)	263
(f) Houses found defective	259
(g) Houses rendered fit by informal notice ...	164
(h) Houses rendered fit by statutory notice ...	6

SECTION VI

FOOD AND FOOD INSPECTION

1. FOOD BYELAWS

On the recommendation of the Health Department, the Council approved the adoption of the Model Byelaws for the handling and wrapping of food. These should do much to improve the standards of procedure in force in many establishments where the necessity of the precautions recommended is not fully realised.

2. MILK SUPPLY

(a) Number of producers	Nil
Number of retailers	13
(b) Number of retailers of :—	
Pasteurised milk	2
Tuberculin Tested milk	1
Sterilised milk	11

(c) 24 routine samples of milk were taken during the year and the results are shown in the following table :—

Designation	No. of Samples	Result	
		Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Pasteurised	20	18	2
T.T. Pasteurised	2	2	—
Sterilised	2	2	—

The defect causing the two unsatisfactory samples was traced and remedied.

(d) It is regretted that the new legislation transferred responsibility for supervision of heat treatment plants from the Urban District Council to the County Council whilst the dairy premises remain under the Urban District Council's supervision, resulting in unnecessary and avoidable duplication of visits.

ICE CREAM

(a) The number of premises registered for the manufacture, storage or sale of Ice Cream are :—

Sale and storage	...	...	...	...	29
Storage	...	...	...	...	—
Manufacture	...	...	...	...	6

(b) 40 samples of Ice Cream were submitted for examination and were graded as follows :—

Grade I	...	...	...	...	15
Grade II	...	...	...	...	16
Grade III	...	...	...	...	4
Grade IV	...	...	...	...	5

(c) The sample results have confirmed observations of a steady and maintained improvement in the manufacture and handling of ice cream generally. In some establishments frequent changes of personnel, many without experience of this trade and of the special risks involved, emphasise the recurring need to educate operatives in hygienic methods to ensure satisfactory results. In the interests of Public Health it would appear that the Food Trade should recognise some established standard of proficiency in the handling of foodstuffs, particularly ice cream, which could be attained after a period of apprenticeship at recognised establishments. As things are, no technical or hygienic educational standards are demanded of the employees engaged and these leave much to be desired.

(d) Representations have been made by the Council on the commendation of the Health Department on the inadequacy of the present system whereby no chemical standards of quality are prescribed for ice cream products. So far the Ministry appear to be concerned more with ensuring the production of quantity rather than of quality but it is hoped that the representations made will ultimately bear fruit so that the public may be protected from unscrupulous vendors.

4. MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION

(a) The amount of food found unfit for human consumption and voluntarily surrendered was 10 tons 4 cwts. 1 qr. 18½ lbs. Details are given below :—

					lbs.
Meat, butchers	...	...	...	...	175½
„ tinned	...	...	...	...	75
„ preserved	...	...	...	...	91
Bacon	...	...	...	...	5
Rabbits	...	...	...	...	54
Poultry	...	...	...	...	116
Fish	...	...	...	...	893
Milk	...	...	...	...	141
Fruit	...	...	...	...	62
Vegetables	...	...	...	...	92
Cheese	...	...	...	...	58
Preserves	...	...	...	...	50
Cereals	...	...	...	...	49
Various	...	...	...	...	313
Potatoes	...	...	...	9 tons 5 cwt.	

(b) The need is emphasised for further refrigeration, particularly grocery and provision shops also dealing in rabbits, chickens and prepared meats. There have been several instances of improvements effected in the rooms at the rear of shops to secure better standards under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, in relation to provision of washing facilities, hot and cold water supplies, staff room separated from preparing and storage rooms.

5. FISH FRYING

There are eight fried fish shops in the district. Improvements with new frying ranges are contemplated at two shops and are expected to be completed early in 1950. Generally the trade is carried on in a satisfactory manner; in two instances nuisances were experienced through inadequate ventilation and these were satisfactorily abated.

6. SHELL-FISH

Five inspections of premises handling shell-fish were made. The trade locally appears long established and is carried on by a few families. Whilst there was evidence of thorough boiling, the conditions generally under which this was done, chiefly at the rear of domestic premises, called for some improvement. There seems little appreciation by the trade of the potential danger of contaminated shell-fish.

7. BAKEHOUSES

There are four registered bakehouses in the district. During the year one of the largest bakehouses has been renovated, new ovens being installed to replace the original aged and worn equipment.

POTATO CRISP FACTORY

Two potato crisp factories operate in the district. The premises for these have been satisfactorily conducted, with the exception of the disposal of vapours at one of them, where improvements have been demanded and are being carried out.

FOOD HYGIENE EDUCATION

(a) By courtesy of the Divisional Educational Authorities a lecture on Food Poisoning was delivered to the senior scholars at the Sheerness County Technical and County Secondary Boys' and Girls' Schools and to the staffs of school canteens.

(b) There would appear to be need for more extensive and more practical tuition in causes of food infection and the measures which are required to prevent it. It is still a revelation to find how little the average "man in the street," which includes the housewife, and the purveyor of food in some shape or form, knows about the causation of these dangerous bacterial diseases and about the part the house-fly plays in the spread.

D. FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938

By courtesy of the Chief Inspector, Weights and Measures Department, the following details of samples of food taken under the Food and Drugs Act in the Sheerness Urban District are included.

Article	No. of Samples
Aspirin tablets	1
Baking powder	1
Bisurated magnesia	1
Boracic ointment	1
Cheese	1
Christmas pudding	1
Coffee	1
Cold cream	1
Colouring	1
Cough pastilles	1
Custard mix	1
Dr. Cassell's Tablets	1
Dripping	1
Fish paste	1
Fruit pectin	1
Gin	2
Glycerine of borax	1
Honey	1
Ice Cream	8
Iodine	1
Jam	2
Jelly Crystals	1
Liquid paraffin	1
Liver salts	1
Meat paste	3
Milk	19

Article	No. of Samples
Mincemeat	1
Mint sauce	1
Pepper	1
Piccalilli	1
Pickle	1
Pincapple crush	1
Saccharin tablets	1
Salad cream	1
Sal Volatile	1
Whisky	1
Total	65

All the samples taken were genuine with the exception of the following :—

Salad cream—Oil 11.6%. Egg yolk solids—Nil.

Further sample taken. Result not yet to hand.

Cheese—A sample of Processed Italian Gruyere Cheese taken as a result of a complaint addressed to the Senior Sanitary Inspector that the article contained small particles of glass. The Analyst reported the article to be genuine, but to contain crystals of sodium phosphate legitimately added in processing. Not dangerous to health.

SECTION VII

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 & 1948

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Written Notices
Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities (no mechanical power)	8	10	—
Factories not included above in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (mechanical power)	39	26	6
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	2	—	—
Total	49	36	6

2. Cases in which defects were found.

	Found	Remedied	Referred	
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ...	4	4	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ...	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ...	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ...	-	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences (S.7)—				
(a) insufficient ...	1	1	-	-
(b) unsuitable or defective ...	1	1	-	-
(c) not separate for sexes ...	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ...	6	-	-	-
Total ...	6	6	-	-

Cases in which prosecutions were instituted—Nil.

OUTWORK

Nature of work	No. of outworkers	Action under Secs. 110 and 111
Wearing of wearing apparel	4	None

APPENDIX A

Details of Inspections carried out by the Sanitary Inspector

Accumulations	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Ashbins	...	...	...	...	...	...	71
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Bug infested houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	53
Bug infested Council houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Verminous houses (excluding bugs)	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Complaints received	...	...	...	...	...	...	292
Drainage, visits and re-visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	97
Drains defective	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Drainage re-laid	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Factories and workplaces	...	...	...	...	...	...	36
Halls and places of entertainment	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Public Health interviews	...	...	...	...	...	...	160
Movable dwellings	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Marine stores, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
Rats and mice	...	...	...	...	...	...	206
Refuse collection	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Refuse tips	...	...	...	...	...	...	23
Shops (1934 Act)	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Stables and piggeries	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Keeping of animals	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
Swimming pools	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Water, bacteriological	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Water supplies	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Watercourses	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Mosquito control	...	...	...	...	...	...	34
Salvage	...	...	...	...	...	...	48
Houses inspected under Public Health Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	249
Re-visits to above houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	28
Houses inspected under Housing Regulations, 1932	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Re-visits to above	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Inspections in Clearance Areas	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Re-visits to above	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Houses inspected for overcrowding	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Re-visits to above	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Miscellaneous housing visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Re-housing interviews and investigations	...	...	...	...	...	...	140
Infectious diseases investigations	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Disinfections	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Miscellaneous infectious disease visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Visits to meat shops and vehicles	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Fishmongers and poulterers	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Fried fish shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

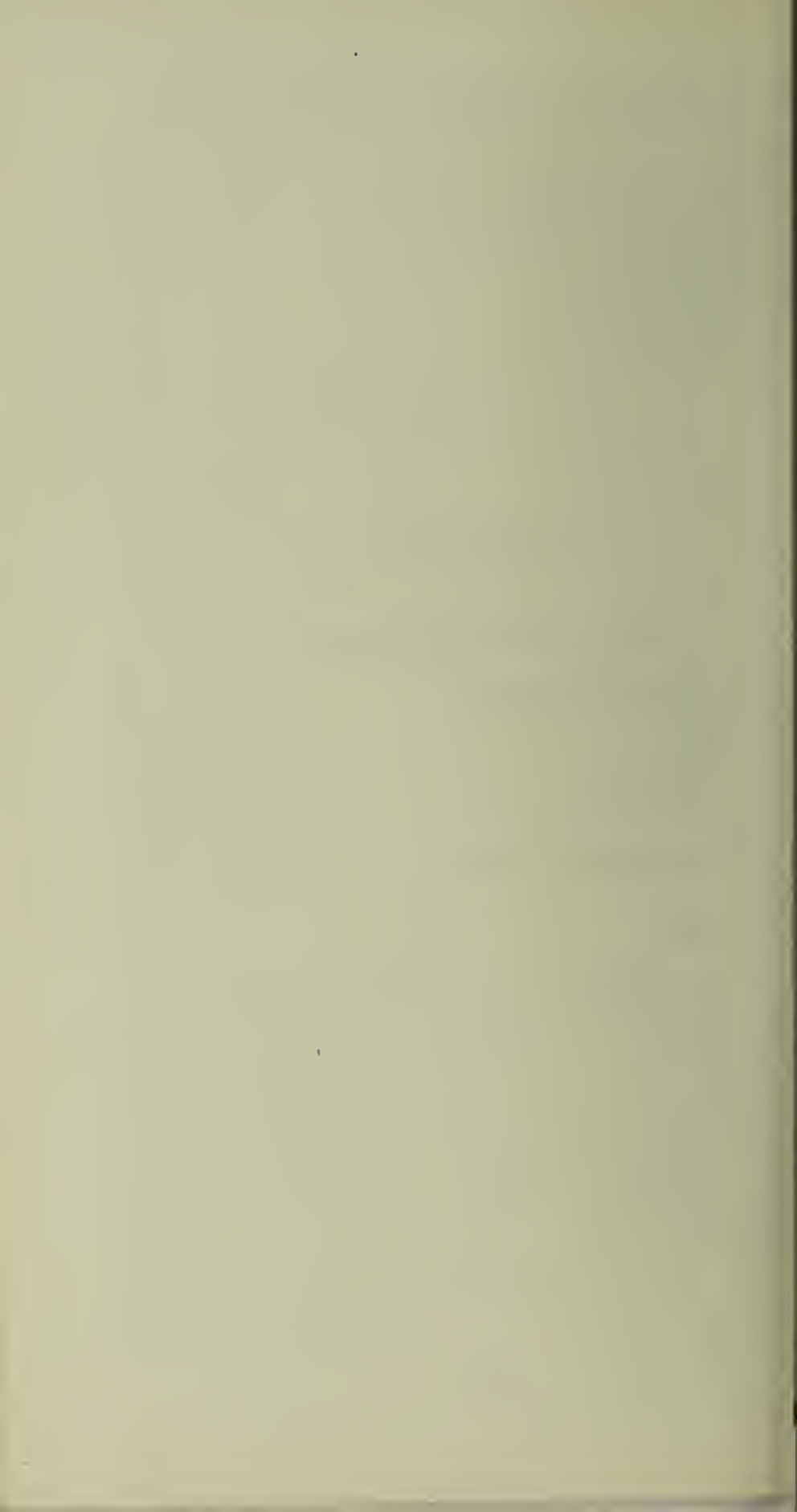
Details of Inspections carried out by the Sanitary Inspector

Procers	...	...	...	...	...	...	48
Restaurants	...	...	...	...	...	...	23
Food manufacturing premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
Milk samples	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
Cream samples	...	...	...	...	...	...	40
Miscellaneous food visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	51
Smoke, fumes, dust, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
Miscellaneous interviews	...	...	...	...	...	...	65
Total							3860

APPENDIX B

Nuisances and Defects Remedied

Sufficient sanitary accommodation	...	...	...	...	6
Infective sanitary accommodation	...	...	...	...	14
Drainage repaired	...	...	...	...	9
Drainage cleansed	...	...	...	...	41
Drainage reconstructed	...	...	...	...	3
Trunks	...	...	...	...	2
Waste pipes	...	...	...	...	8
Rain water pipes and eaves gutters	...	...	...	...	11
Dampness	...	...	...	...	29
Roofs	...	...	...	...	46
Walls and ceilings	...	...	...	...	57
Floors	...	...	...	...	23
Windows and ventilation	...	...	...	...	19
Hearthplaces and stoves	...	...	...	...	29
Washing coppers	...	...	...	...	9
Water supplies	...	...	...	...	8
Hard paving	...	...	...	...	8
Refuse receptacles	...	...	...	...	39
Smoke nuisance	...	...	...	...	4
Accumulation of refuse	...	...	...	...	8
Keeping of animals	...	...	...	...	15
Unwholesome rooms	...	...	...	...	9
Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	7
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	17
Total					421



Sheppey Rural District Council

1949

Chairman :

A. JOHNSON, J.P.

Vice-Chairman :

W./Cmr. W. E. JAMES, C.C.

Councillors :

H. A. Auty

R. N. Bigg

T. H. Dale

W. Davies

A. P. Dummott

W. S. Evans

C. Love

H. C. Love

G. T. Parris

F. A. Purvis

A. E. Richards

Clerk to the Council :

S. P. Walton, A.C.I.S., F.R.V.A., F.R.ECON.S.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
TRINITY ROAD,
SHEERNESS.

July, 1950.

To the Sheppey Rural District Council.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND COUNCILLORS,

I have the honour to present my first Annual Report on Public Health of the District during 1949.

The vital statistics disclose a lower birth rate, a higher death rate and a higher infant mortality rate than those obtaining in preceding year. None of these variations is of serious import.

The number of cases of infectious disease shows an increase due to the periodic biennial measles epidemic. Happily no cases were severe and there were no fatalities.

The peculiar problems attending the large and growing earthenware sites along the north sea-front have necessitated the increase of the staff of the Health Department by the appointment of an additional Sanitary Inspector. This important reinforcement of staff will do much to improve the standard of supervision in matters affecting environmental hygiene, a duty which has hitherto devolved on the Engineer and Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector.

The appointment of a Health Committee of the Council to deal with all matters affecting the Public Health has been an important step forward in the consideration of these matters.

A good deal has been done throughout the year to improve the standard of bacteriological purity of the water supplies and of the facilities for the disposal of sillage and sewage.

The housing situation presents very urgent problems demanding further considerable building, not only to meet the demand for the normal growth of the population, but also for the rehousing of people living in dilapidated or sub-standard houses.

It has been a great pleasure to work with you and with my colleagues on the staff of the Council to whom I am grateful for their unfailing assistance and co-operation.

Your obedient servant,

W. H. CRICHTON,

Medical Officer of Health

SECTION I.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

CLIMATE

There was an exceptionally fine summer and a mild winter at beginning and end of the year.

AREA IN ACRES

19,949. No change.

POPULATION

Estimated mid-year 1949 :—

Civilian	...	...	...	...	8,860
Total	...	...	...	...	8,911

The total population shows an increase of 28 over the estimated population for 1948 and of 407 over the figure for 1947.

NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES

3,197. This figure is an increase of 30 over the number in 1948.

RATEABLE VALUE	...	...	...	...	£17,923
SUM REPRESENTING PENNY RATE	...	...	...	...	£75

SECTION II.

VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS

(a) Live Births

		Males	Females	Totals
Legitimate	...	79 (89)*	76 (85)*	155 (174)*
Illegitimate	...	5 (6)	11 (7)	16 (13)
Totals	...	84 (95)	87 (92)	171 (187)

The percentage of illegitimate births was 9.3% (6.9%).

The total number of births was 16 (or 8.5%) less than in 1948.

(b) Birth Rate

Per 1,000 of civilian population ... 19.3 (21.1)

The Birth Rate for England and Wales for 1949 was 16.7 per 1,000 of total population.

(c) Still-Births

		Males	Females	Totals
Legitimate	...	2 (4)	2 (0)	4 (4)
Illegitimate	...	— (0)	— (1)	— (1)
Totals	...	2 (4)	2 (1)	4 (5)

The percentage of still-births to the total (live and still) births was 2.3. For 1948 it was 2.6.

* Figures in brackets relate to the year 1948

2. DEATHS

(a) The total number of deaths from all causes was 105, of whom 56 were males and 49 females. The corresponding figure for the preceding year was 80, of whom 42 were males and 38 females.

(b) The corrected Death Rate per 1,000 of the civilian population was 11.3 as compared with 9.0 in 1948 and 13.2 in 1947.

The Death Rate for England and Wales was 11.7.

(c) The following table shows the causes of deaths of residents whether occurring within or without the district during the year :—

TABLE I

Disease	Males	Female
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	1 (1)	— (—)
Syphilitic diseases	— (1)	— (—)
Cancer of buccal cavity and oesophagus	1 (1)	— (—)
Cancer of stomach and duodenum	3 (5)	1 (—)
Cancer of breast	— (—)	3 (—)
Cancer of all other sites	4 (5)	3 (—)
Diabetes	— (—)	1 (—)
Intracranial vascular lesions	3 (3)	9 (—)
Heart diseases	25 (11)	18 (1)
Other circulatory diseases	— (—)	— (—)
Bronchitis	3 (1)	2 (—)
Pneumonia	3 (1)	3 (—)
Other respiratory diseases	2 (—)	1 (—)
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	1 (—)	1 (—)
Diarrhoea under 2 years	1 (1)	— (—)
Other digestive diseases	— (3)	— (—)
Nephritis	1 (—)	2 (—)
Other maternal causes	— (—)	— (—)
Premature birth	1 (1)	— (—)
Congenital malformation, birth injuries, infant diseases	1 (1)	2 (—)
Suicide	1 (1)	— (—)
Road traffic accidents	1 (—)	— (—)
Other violent causes	1 (—)	— (—)
All other causes	3 (6)	3 (—)
TOTALS ...	56 (42)	49 (—)

3. INFANT MORTALITY

(a) The number of deaths of infants under one year of age was 23, the same as in 1948. The Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 births was 23.4 as compared with 21.4 the previous year.

(b) The details of causes of deaths among infants were as follows :—

TABLE II.

Cause	Males	Females
Prematurity, second twin	1	—
Congenital malformation	—	1
Capillary Bronchitis (2 months)	—	1
Acute Gastro-Enteritis (5 months)	1	—

(c) The Infant Mortality Rate for England and Wales was 32 per 1,000 live births as compared with 34 in 1948.

NATURAL INCREASE IN POPULATION

The excess of births over deaths during the year was 66 as compared with differences of 107, 112 and 88 in the years 1948, 1947 and 1946 respectively.

SECTION III.

INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES THEIR PREVALENCE AND CONTROL

TABLE III.

Disease	Total Total (1948)	Males	Females	Removed to Hospital	Deaths
Scarlet Fever	6 (2)	3	3	1	—
Whooping Cough	35 (51)	18	17	—	—
Diphtheria	— (1)	—	—	—	—
Measles	239 (54)	118	121	—	—
Acute Pneumonia (primary or influenzal)	18 (5)	7	11	—	6
Erysipelas	10 (4)	5	5	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	— (—)	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	— (1)	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	— (1)	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	— (—)	—	—	—	—
Smallpox	— (—)	—	—	—	—
Typhoid	— (—)	—	—	—	—
Malaria	— (1)	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	— (—)	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis—Pulmonary	12 (6)	9	3	2	1
Non-Pulmonary	— (—)	—	—	—	—
TOTALS ...	320 (126)	160	160	3	7

2. The age distribution of the cases notified are given Table IV below.

TABLE IV.

Disease	At all ages	At Ages and Years							
		Under 1 year	1- 2	3- 4	5- 9	10- 14	15- 24	25- 44	45- 64
Scarlet Fever	6	-	1	1	4	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	35	4	7	10	11	-	1	1	1
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	239	4	63	62	107	-	3	-	-
Acute Pneumonia (primary or influenzal)	18	-	-	3	1	-	1	3	5
Erysipelas	10	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	6
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Smallpox	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Typhoid	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tuberculosis—Pulmonary	12	-	-	-	1	1	4	4	2
Non-Pulmonary	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS ...	320	8	72	76	124	1	9	9	14

3. A summary of the Tuberculosis Register showing the number of cases on the register at the beginning and end of the year given below :—

TABLE V
SUMMARY OF TUBERCULOSIS REGISTER

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Total
	M	F	M	F	
in Register, 1st Jan. 1949	21	20	9	7	57
New notifications	9	3	—	—	12
Deaths of cases not previously notified	—	1	—	—	1
Restored to register	1	—	—	—	1
Transfers from other districts	—	2	—	—	2
Totals ...	31	26	9	7	73
Died during year	1	1*	—	—	2
Recovered	1	—	—	—	1
Removed from district	2	1	1	—	4
Totals ...	4	2	1	—	7
Number of cases remaining on register, 31st Dec., 1949	27	24	8	7	66

* Died in 1948.

4. DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

By courtesy of the County Medical Officer the following figures relating to the state of immunisation against Diphtheria of children under 15 years of age are reproduced :—

TABLE VI.

Year of Birth	Primary Immunisation in 1949	Reinforcing Inoculation in 1949	Total number immunised at end of 1949	Percentage of related population
1949	17	—	17	68.2
1948	115	—	134	
1947	16	—	173	
1946	9	—	163	
1945	2	—	159	
1944	2	11	149	83.6
1943	15	24	138	
1942	1	12	158	
1941	1	15	99	
1940	2	7	104	
1939	1	13	105	
1938	1	17	101	
1937	2	—	89	
1936	—	1	88	
1935	—	1	80	
Totals ...	184	101	1,757	77.1

5. VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX

I am also indebted to the County Medical Officer for the particulars of persons vaccinated against Smallpox during 1949 contained in the following table :—

TABLE VII.

Age group	Primary Vaccinations	Re-vaccinations
Under 1 year ...	46	—
1 to 4 ...	41	6
5 to 14 ...	6	15
15 and over ...	6	27
Total ...	99	48

SECTION IV.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES AND SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER SUPPLY

(a) Three bores are operated by the Sheppey Water Company situated at Abbey Works, Minster; Water Lane, Eastchurch and Hlland, Minster. The Rural District Council has two bores, one at Warden and one at Leysdown.

(b) Number of houses supplied by :—

Parish	Pipe to house	Standpipe	Well
Minster	2,209	—	—
Eastchurch	421	25	—
Leysdown	218	—	—
Warden	100	—	—
Elmley and Harty ...	1	—	15

(c) The existing sources of supply have been sufficient for the needs of the district.

A 4-inch main laid from Warden to Leysdown during the year completes the effective distribution throughout the northern part of the Island and an improved supply to Leysdown.

(d) A number of unsatisfactory samples have been obtained from various points on the distribution. These samples showed the organisms to be not typical B.coli. In all cases flushing of the mains and more adequate treatment has been carried out.

Following unsatisfactory samples taken from the Sheppey General Hospital supplementary supply, this supply was suspended in July until November when satisfactory bacteriological reports were obtained.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

(a) Minster : The extension of services to Station Road, Drake Avenue, and Nelson Avenue has abolished 66 cesspools in this area. A total of 73 cesspools have been abolished during the year.

(b) Eastchurch : The re-drainage of the village to the Eastchurch Aerodrome Disposal Works is in hand and the purchase by the Council of the Disposal Works is an important step in improved sanitation of the area. 117 houses will be connected to the main sewer. The elimination of pail closets in the village and the cessation of the fouling of two watercourses will be the immediate benefit of this scheme carried out at a cost of £10,440, the whole of the total cost being borne by the Treasury and the County Council.

(c) Leysdown : The popularity of Leysdown and Warden as day centres has emphasised the immediate need in these areas for main drainage. Serious nuisances existed in the holiday season.

The Council have, with the consent of the Ministry of Health accepted the responsibility of dealing with foul waters entering the sewers laid by the Leysdown Estates by the temporary use of the Disposal Works of the Leysdown Aerodrome. The main drainage scheme for Leysdown and Warden is to be presented to the Ministry of Health as soon as possible.

(d) The method of sewage disposal throughout the district is summarised below :—

Parish		Number of Houses		
		Main drainage	Cesspool	Pail closets
Minster	...	2,143	94	141
Eastchurch	...	113	245	179
Leysdown	...	—	197	71
Warden	...	—	127	19
Elmley & Harty		—	23	21

3. DISPOSAL OF REFUSE

The Council has purchased a further 4½ acres of marsh land adjacent to the Scrapsgate Disposal Works and this has been prepared and is in use. Controlled tipping is being carried out. The refuse tip is regularly treated for flies.

4. SCHOOLS SANITATION

No complaints have been received.

5. PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

Public conveniences for both sexes exist at Halfway, Scrapsgate, Minster, Eastchurch and Leysdown, and are kept in a satisfactory condition.

6. INSPECTIONS

The detail of inspections carried out by the Sanitary Inspector is shown in Appendix A.

7. NUISANCES

The detail of nuisances abated during the year is shown in Appendix B. No statutory notices were served, all the nuisances being abated by informal action.

8. DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION

(a) Nine rooms at nine premises were disinfected on account of infectious disease. All library books at premises where a case of infectious disease has occurred are disinfected before being turned to circulation.

(b) No infestations of bed bugs or fleas were reported during the year.

9. MOSQUITO CONTROL

Surface water drainage ditches in the Scrapsgate area were sprayed with Malariol. Cowsheds and pigsties were sprayed with D.D.T. solution.

RODENT CONTROL

Number of complaints received	22
Infestations found	22
Infestations found on survey	10
Treated by local authority's operator ...	29
Treated by occupier	3
Estimated kill by poison	2869

Sewer treatment was carried out within the year in accordance with the Divisional Rodent Officer's instructions with good results.

HOLIDAY CAMPS

The very rapid increase in holiday camps in the post-war years created a very serious health problem in the Leysdown area. The number of movable dwellings in this area in July, 1949, was 40.

Special attention has been given to the provision of adequate sanitary accommodation and the raising of standards of hygiene in all camps.

SECTION V.

HOUSING

Action taken by the Health Department in respect of housing during the year is summarised below :—

(a) Houses inspected for defects	416
(b) Inspections carried out in respect of (a) ...	647
(c) Houses found unfit for human habitation ...	18
(d) Houses found defective	308
(e) Houses rendered fit by informal notice ...	295
(f) Houses rendered fit by statutory notice ...	Nil

(a) Permanent housing — Progress in the construction of new houses in 1949 has not been very good owing to the failure of contractors. 17 houses were completed in the year and 36 houses were in course of construction at the end of the year. In addition, 14 houses were completed by private enterprise with 12 other 12 under construction.

(b) Temporary housing—Bell Farm Camp and East End Camp have continued to be fully used, providing homes for 51 families.

(c) The following table shows the number of houses built since the end of the war.

				During 1949	Total since end of war
Council houses :—					
Temporary, completed	...	...	—		32
„ under construction	...	...	—
Permanent, completed	...	...	17		106
„ under construction	...	...	36		
Private enterprise :—					
Permanent, completed	...	...	14		49
„ under construction	...	...	12		

3. RURAL HOUSING SURVEY

Of 3,086 houses, 2,624 have been surveyed and classified as follows :—

Category				
(i)	Satisfactory in all respects	...	...	1,295
(ii)	Minor defects	...	...	475
(iii)	Requiring repairs, structural alterations or improvements	...	...	675
(iv)	Appropriate for re-conditioning	...	...	10
(v)	Unfit for habitation and beyond repair at reasonable expense	...	...	10

4. The number of applicants on the housing waiting list at the beginning of 1949 was 261, and this figure had increased to 261 by the end of the year.

5. A representation was made in respect of twelve cottages at Halfway called Pleasant Cottages. These have been made the subject of a Compulsory Purchase Order which is to be put into effect in the current year.

6. THE HOUSING SITUATION

With 160 or 6% of the houses surveyed classified as unfit for human habitation and beyond repair at reasonable cost, and the growing list of applicants, it cannot be said that the housing situation in the district is a very happy one. Use has still to be made of the temporary housing provided at Bell Farm Camp and East End Camp, and at the present rate of progress, there appears to be no possibility of their being closed for many years to come. The district is not only a growing holiday resort, but it also serves as a dormitory for the neighbouring industrial districts of Queenborough and Sheerness. To meet this demand and to provide for the housing of those now living in unfit houses within measurable time a more extensive housing programme would appear to be necessary.

SECTION VI.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

BYE-LAWS

The Council accepted the recommendation to adopt the Bye-laws suggested for the handling, wrapping and delivery of food. These will come into force in the new year.

MILK

(a) Number of producers only	...	...	...	...	14
Number of producer-retailers	...	...	...	...	8
Number of retailers	...	...	...	...	7
(b) Number of retailers of :—					
Pasteurised milk	...	...	...	...	2
Tuberculin tested milk	...	...	...	...	2
Raw milk	...	...	...	...	9
Sterilised milk	...	...	...	...	2

(c) 16 routine samples of milk were taken during the year and for biological examination. The following table shows details of milk submitted.

Designation	No. of samples	Result	
		Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Pasteurised	4	4	—
Accredited	4	4	—
Raw milk	12	12	—

ICE CREAM

(a) The number of premises registered for the manufacture, storage or sale of Ice Cream are :—

Sale and storage of Ice Cream	...	...	...	12
Storage	...	...	...	Nil
Manufacture	...	...	...	Nil

(b) Seven samples of Ice Cream were submitted for examination and were graded as follows :—

Grade I	...	...	...	2
Grade II	...	...	...	3
Grade III	...	...	...	2
Grade IV	...	...	...	—

4. MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION

As a result of inspections carried out by the Sanitary Inspector the following items of food were condemned as unfit for human consumption :—

	lbs.
Meat—fresh	195 $\frac{1}{4}$
Meat—tinned	60 $\frac{1}{4}$
Cereals	25
Cheese	19 $\frac{3}{4}$
Eggs	10
Milk (tinned and dried)	132
Fruit and vegetables	30

5. FRIED FISH SHOPS

Four fish frying establishments are in operation in the area.

6. SHELL-FISH

The general public have been warned of the special risks involved in the eating of shell-fish collected from the foreshore at Leysdown, where it is liable to be contaminated by sewage outfall unless it is properly sterilised by cooking.

7. BAKEHOUSES

One bakehouse is registered and in operation in the area.

8. FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938

By courtesy of the Chief Inspector, Weights and Measures Department, Kent County Council, the following details of samples of food taken under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, in the Rural District are included.

Article	No. of samples
Dried mint	1
Jam	1
Lemonade crystals	1
Lemonade powder	2
Marmalade	2
Milk	1
Milk of magnesia tablets	1
Pepper	1
Pickle	1
Rum	1
Salad dressing	1
Sal volatile	1
Vinegar	1
Vita-cup	1
Witch Hazel	1
TOTAL	3

All of the above samples were genuine with the exception of following :—

— 6.7% deficient in fat	Further samples taken and found genuine.
— 6.7% deficient in fat ...	...
—13.3% deficient in fat	Cautionary letter sent to the producer. No further action could be taken because the milk was deficient in fat as it came from the cows.
—18.3% deficient in fat ...	...
—20.0% deficient in fat ...	...
—46.7% deficient in fat ...	...
—26.7% deficient in fat ...	...
Volatile—Inferior. Free Ammonia	...	Manufacturers contacted and stock withdrawn.
6% ...	...
Jam—Inferior. Deficient	15%	Further sampling attempted, but no more in stock.
Minimum fruit content	...	

SECTION VII

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 & 1948

Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Written Notices
Factories in which Sections 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by local authorities (no mechanical power)	19	28	—
Factories not included above which Section 7 is enforced by the local authority (mechanical power) ...	12	20	—
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the local authority (excluding workers' premises) ...	—	—	—
Total ...	31	48	—

2. Cases in which defects were found.

	Found	Remedied	Referred	
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ...	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ...	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ...	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ...	-	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences (S.7)				
(a) insufficient ...	1	1	-	-
(b) unsuitable or defective	-	-	-	-
(c) not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ...	-	-	-	-

3. Outwork

Nature of work	No. of Outworkers		Action under Secs 110 and 1	
Making of wearing apparel	1	...	None
Others	Nil	...	—